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Then And Now

By Frances H. Paulette

Henry, Quite a Fellow!

Part 2

Henry--He was in the army THEN

Henry Broderick Pack, Jr. was an eighth-grader when his parents, Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Pack moved to Appomattox to make their home. There is quite a difference in Appomattox THEN and NOW.

When the Packs moved here, electricity was provided by a generator which was owned and operated by the late Mr. Erman. Ice was available at the "Ice Plant" owned and operated by the late Walter Hancock.

Smiling as he looked back on his school days, Henry Pack told me how much he had enjoyed his high school days. The late Lindsay Crawley was the school principal. Affectionately known as "Fessor", short for Professor, he had the reputation of using rather unique, (to say the least!), forms of discipline.

Should students be unlucky enough to get caught throwing 'spit-balls' "Fessor" would require those students to stand, at attention, on the top of their desk. Most likely a lecture would accompany this unusual punishment. You know, it's funny, but Henry didn't happen to mention whether he'd ever been required to stand on his desk . . . maybe he couldn't remember. Maybe he didn't want to remember!

In talking over his high school experiences, Henry spoke warmly of several teachers who meant a great deal to him as he completed high school and prepared for college. Among those were Kate O'Brien, Helene Harvey Welch, and his "Ag" teacher, "Pop" Wilkins.

It may have been "Pop" Wilkins who inspired Henry to enter the field of vocational agriculture. However, when Henry entered VPI after graduation from high school in 1930, he entered as a pre-med student; it wasn't long before he switched to vocational agriculture.

Just as a great many other students living THEN had to do, Henry found it necessary to work during his junior and senior years at college.

Along with five other students, Henry had the job of sweeping the dining room; 1,500 chairs had to be moved three times a day. According to Henry, it took only about twelve minutes for the six students to complete the job. The reason for such speed? They dared not be late for class; you see, the fact that a student had to work did not give him an excuse for tardiness.

A year at VPI cost Henry approximately $250.00 plus what he earned working on campus. All students wore military uniforms and considered themselves quite fortunate to be able to get home for a visit once during a quarter.

In 1934 Henry graduated from VPI and secured his first job - - teaching in Halifax County. He taught vocational agriculture at both Scottsburg High School and Clover High School.

Arriving in Halifax in the middle of the depression, Henry Pack felt fortunate indeed to receive $112.00 a month for teaching school.

With the teaching position and the security it meant, Henry decided it was time to 'tie the knot' so he and Lucy Caldwell were married in 1935. Her earlier prediction had really come true; she said he would be her fellow - - he was and now he was her husband. They moved to an apartment in Clover.

When Henry left the teaching profession, it was to join the army; this committment lasted for six years.

In 1942 Henry Broderick Pack III was born. Brod is married to the former Jane Williams of Pamplin and they are the parents of a son, Rick.

Henry Pack was mustered out of the army in 1946.

After his 'stint' in the army, Henry returned to the teaching profession; taught chemistry for a while but saw that he didn't belong in that field.

"I just wasn't at home when I was out of the field of Agriculture, but I was really happy to teach "Ag" at Appomattox High School and Pamplin High School.

Not only did Henry teach vocational agriculture with great enthusiasm but he was constantly on the look-out for boys he felt would do well in this field. There is no way of knowing just how many boys found their way into this field because of the interest and influence of Henry Pack.

Henry Pack the teacher . . . Henry Pack the man, cared about the boys who sat in his classroom and they knew it.

The Vocational Agriculture Department grew under the guidance of Henry Pack and it was a great loss to Appomattox County High School when Henry resigned in 1974. He felt more than a little sadness too . . . he was leaving a part of himself behind.

In the early 50's Pack received the Freedom Foundation Award; when I tried to question him a bit more about this honor, he quickly changed the subject. This is the kind of man Henry Pack is . . . never wanting to talk about himself, always turning the conversation to something else. He talks very little about his achievements . . . and I might add he has done much in the field of education, town government and as a citizen of this county.

During the 60's Pack got involved in town politics, taking the place of the late Kendall Hunter on the town council.

In 1967 Henry Pack was elected Mayor of Appomattox and his record speaks for itself.

"I really enjoyed my work for the town, I love the people" said Henry recently as he talked of past experiences.

Henry continued, "I value my friends, those in the teaching profession, extension work, the people of the town and of the county."

Henry Pack has also received the Honorary American Farm Degree in the field of teaching.

Henry Pack may be retired from the teaching profession and the job as mayor of our town but he has plenty to keep him busy.

Henry is an active member of Appomattox Presbyterian Church, the Appomattox Lions Club, the Planning Commission, The Falling River County Club; these activities alone should keep a man pretty busy , but for Henry , that isn't enough. He has a working farm of 300 acres.

Almost every week day morning you'll find Henry at Jeanne's Restaurant for breakfast. What is the old expression? "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." I think this old saying fits Henry Pack very well, don't you?

Have You Heard?

A musical called "Songs In History" with director, Rebecca H. Carwile will be presented at Appomattox County High School Auditorium, Friday night, December 8, 1978 at 7:30.

You will hear songs popular the years 1914 through 1978. Also a bluegrass band from Gladys, Virginia will be included.

Two of our local girls, Cindy Thomas and Charlene Lawson are in the program. They are both very talented and it's a pleasure to know that they will be a part of the entertainment for the evening.

The tickets are selling for $2.50 for adults and $1.50 for children 12 and under and are on sale at The Times Virginian, Inc. in Appomattox, and at R & K Grocery at Pamplin and will also be sold at the door the night of the musical.

The proceeds will go to the Sarah Browning Taylor Fund. Here's hoping you will come on out December 8 at 7:30 and enjoy a fun-filled evening.

Hollywood

Rev. Dan Menser delivered a fine message Sunday morning at Hollywood Church.

The Women's Missionary Society of Hollywood Church will present a special program for Foreign Missions at the church Friday night, December 8th starting at 6:30.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Prosise, Jr. and son of Richmond and Mr. and Mrs. Dillard Franklin were Thanksgiving guest of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Franklin and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Beasley, Jr. and son Tye spent Thanksgiving week end with Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Beasley of Glendale Heights, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Inge and Mr. and Mrs. Sammie Inge were guest of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Inge of Lynchburg Thanksgiving Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Webb visited Miss Odelle Webb Friday at the Lynchburg General Hospital in Lynchburg. Our sincere prayers are for Miss Webb to be feeling better soon.

Rev. and Mrs. Dan Menser had some of their family from Hampton for Thanksgiving. Mrs. Menser returned home with them for the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woodall and Lisa spent several days last week end with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Coffey of Covington.

Mrs. Claude Hamlett and daughter Brenda of Hurt visited her mother Mrs. Virgie Beasley Thursday.

Mr. Frank O. Covington of Marietta, Ohio is visiting his sister Mrs. Mary Bagby and other relatives.

Miss Jane Bondurant and Mrs. Jimmie Bondurant of Marietta, Ohio were supper guest Monday evening of Mrs. Mary Bagby. They called in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wingfield and family, Mrs. W. T. Covington and Mrs. M. L. Covington. They spent Monday night with friends in Lynchburg before returning to Marietta Tuesday.

Supper guest Thanksgiving evening of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Deaner and family were Mr. Frank Covington, Mrs. Mary Bagby, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wingfield, Miss Julia Wingfield, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Watson, William and April Watson.

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Turns of Rustburg were luncheon guest Friday of Mrs. W. T. Covington. They and Mrs. Covington visited Mrs. J. L. Torrence and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman in the afternoon.

Mr. H. W. Jenkins was a luncheon guest of Mrs. Mary Bagby and Mr. Frank Covington Wednesday. Mr. Jenkins visited Mr. and Mrs. Richard Webb and Mr. Walker Webb last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Rabey of Huntsville, Ala. and Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson Jr. and family of Alexandria visited Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson, Sr. Saturday. Mr. Harry Goin of Baltimore and Mr. Jerry Goin of Roanoke called in the L. H. Watson, Sr. home Thursday.

Mrs. J. L. Torrence and Mrs. James Conner spent Thanksgiving week end in Richmond with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hancock and family and Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Torrence Jr. and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman and Mrs. W. T. Covington had lunch with Mrs. J. L. Torrence Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Clabo of Knoxville, Tennessee were visitors of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Davis and family of Appomattox and relatives in Cumberland and Farmville for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Miss Teresa Cyrus and Mr. Bobby Smith were visitors Saturday of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman.

Mr. and Mrs. James Woodall of Spout Spring visited Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Franklin and family Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. James Woodall of Spout Spring visited Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Franklin and family Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Watson and family were dinner guest Thursday of Mr. Watson's parents Mr. and Mrs. Willie Watson.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Almond, Jodie Kendricks, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woodall and Lisa, Mr. and Mrs. James Woodall, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wingfield visited Mrs. Mary Bagby during the week and Sunday.

ALABAMA BAPTIST CHURCH

The Thanksgiving service that was held at the Alabama Baptist Church was a great success. The prayer service began at 7 o'clock. Mrs. Alice Moore and Catherine Haskins were in charge of the services. Everyone joined in the service. At 7:30 Rev. Venable brought the message theme, "Where are you planning on spending Eternity?" The message was very good. Testimonies service was good, also . They expressed themselves on how good God had been to each other. Rev. Robert Haskins, our guest, from New Jersey was present and gave remarks.

Sis Moore thanks each and everyone for coming out to make the program a success. The music was by the Junior and Senior Choir combined.

A special program will be held at the Alabama Baptist Church on the second Sunday in November at 7 p.m. The Holiness Singers are the sponsor for the sick and shut-in and including Mt. Lyle, White Oak Grove, Zion Baptist and Triumph. Come out and help us. The Men's Chorus of Pamplin, Gospel Harmonettes of Appomattox, Gospel Quintet and Echoes of Joy of Darlington Heights are going to help us on this program. Just make the sick and shut in happy for Christmas.

The Holiness Singer go out to help others, so come and help them make this program a success.

We are praying for the sick where ever they may be.

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Every gift which is given, even though it be small, is in reality great, if it be given with affection.

— Pindar (518-438 B.C.)

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